

Remarks

During the interview of December 3, 2008, the Wells and Dickinson references were discussed. Wells does not lock the gaming machine so that the gaming machine no longer operates to play a game while credits are on the credit meter. The undersigned asked Examiner Renwick for language to clarify the difference in Wells where the gaming machine continues to operate but is controlled remotely. Examiner Renwick suggested “the gaming machine no longer operates” to play a game. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to define the machine as being locked by player action “so that the gaming machine no longer operates to play a game.” This is not taught by Wells.

Nor is such a thing made obvious by Wells since the purpose of Wells is to continue operation of the gaming machine to play a game remotely, or to play a game locally. Dickinson does not remedy the deficiencies of Wells. Dickinson discloses no player action to cause the gaming machine to no longer operate to play a game.

Dickinson and Wells cannot be combined to make obvious something which neither reference discloses.

It is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to modify Wells in view of Dickinson so as to make obvious (1) a lock function solely when credits are on the meter by action of the player so that the gaming machine no longer operates, and (2) an unlock function thereafter by supply of an identification device to the gaming machine, so that the gaming machine operates to play a game; the identification device being associated with the credit held in the gaming machine. Claim 1 recites a credit association as being carried out by a credit establishing facility.

The remaining dependent claims 2-17, 19-35, and new claims 44, 45 are allowable for these same reasons given as to the allowability of claims 1 and 18.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested and a Notice of Allowability is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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